

THE IOWA POLL

SELZER & COMPANY

802 Iowa adults

Margin of error: ± 3.5 percentage points

Study #2070

February 3-6, 2013

Weighted by age and sex

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
37	51	12

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
58	28	14

I'm going to mention some elected officials. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling his job. **(Rotate list.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Terry Branstad as governor	56	33	11
Tom Harkin as U.S. Senator	55	28	17
Chuck Grassley as U.S. Senator	62	22	16
Matt Schultz, Iowa Secretary of State	38	13	49

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

(Follow with:) Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing: **(Rotate all items after his job as president.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
With his job as president	49	46	5
With the economy	45	50	5
With relations with other countries	55	38	7
With the budget deficit	35	58	7
With managing relationships with the U.S. Congress	42	46	12

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin recently announced he will not seek re-election. For each of the following political figures, please tell me if you think the person would be an appealing candidate for U.S. Senate or not. Just answer yes or no. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Bruce Braley, Congressman from Iowa's first district	36	33	31
Steve King, Congressman from Iowa's fourth district	33	41	26
Chet Culver, former Iowa governor	39	49	12
Tom Latham, Congressman from Iowa's third district	40	34	26
Christie Vilsack, former Iowa first lady	42	46	12
Kim Reynolds, Iowa's lieutenant governor	33	37	30
Tom Vilsack, U.S. secretary of agriculture and former Iowa governor	56	35	9
Bob Vander Plaats, former candidate for governor	21	54	25

For each of the following, please tell me if you expect things will get better or worse in 2013. **(Rotate list.)**

	Better	Worse	Not Sure
The drought	43	38	19
The Iowa economy	69	24	7
The national economy	51	45	4
The combative atmosphere in the U.S. Congress	28	60	12
The situation in the Middle East	28	61	11
Your personal sense of economic security	55	36	9

Here are some issues that may be debated in the Iowa Legislature this year. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the initiative. **(Rotate list.)**

	Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Reduce taxes for the lowest income earners	71	25	4
Ban red-light cameras	50	43	7
Ban traffic-enforcement cameras that take pictures of speeders	51	46	3
Raise the gas tax by around 10 cents a gallon to pay for road and bridge repairs	35	63	2
Raise the cap on tax credits to businesses to encourage new businesses and expansion, adding \$60 million to the price tag	49	38	13
Legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes in Iowa	58	38	4
Legalize the use of marijuana for recreational purposes in Iowa	29	68	3
Require a government-issued photo ID in order to vote	71	26	3
Expand the bottle law beyond beer and soda containers to include containers for water, juice, and other beverages	64	26	10

Do you think gun laws in Iowa should be more restrictive or less restrictive than they are now, or are things about right the way they are?

More Restrictive	Less Restrictive	About right the Way they are	Not Sure
33	11	53	3

Here are some specific proposals on guns the U.S. Congress might consider this year. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose. **(Rotate list, but clip size item must always follow military-style weapons item.)**

	Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Requiring background checks for all gun sales, including those at gun shows and by private sellers	88	11	1
Banning military-style weapons, commonly known as assault weapons	60	37	3
Renewing the limit on the size of ammunition clips to 10 rounds	59	36	5

For each of the following, please tell me how much of a factor you think it is in contributing to gun violence—a major factor, a minor factor, or not really a factor.

Which ONE of these do you think is the single biggest factor?

	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not Really a Factor	Not Sure	Single Biggest Factor
Easy availability of guns	54	24	20	2	12
Lack of effective laws controlling who can and who cannot buy guns	48	29	19	4	11
Lack of effective laws on the types of guns that can and cannot be sold	41	32	25	2	5
Violence in the media, including video games	50	30	18	2	12
A culture that glorifies violence	60	26	12	2	12
Lack of available treatment for those with mental illnesses	74	18	6	2	28
Lack of individual responsibility of gun owners	57	27	14	2	15
None of these (VOL)					2
Not sure					3

Turning to another subject, commercial property is currently taxed at a higher valuation than residential property or farmland. Governor Branstad has proposed cutting commercial property taxes by 20%. Which best reflects your view on this: **(Do not rotate.)**

- 24 It is a step in the right direction, but does not go far enough
- 25 It is the right step; a bigger cut would make it hard to balance the budget
- 41 Taxes on commercial property should not be cut
- 10 Not sure

Currently, state government has a surplus, meaning it took in more money in taxes and fees than it spent. In your view, which of the following would be the best use of the surplus? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

- 45 Devote more money to education reform for kindergarten through high school
- 20 Expand the state's Medicaid program which provides health insurance for the poor
- 7 Cut commercial property taxes
- 22 Give state taxpayers an income tax credit of around \$375 per adult
- 4 None of these (VOL)
- 2 Not sure

Turning now to education, I'm going to mention some changes the Iowa Legislature may consider. For each, please tell me if you think this would make a major difference in raising the quality of education students receive, a minor difference, or no real difference. **(Rotate list.)**

	Major Difference	Minor Difference	No Real Difference	Not Sure
Raise the base pay for beginning teachers to \$35,000	52	31	16	1
Offer a rebate of half of their college tuition to prospective Iowa teachers who are in the top quarter of their college class and agree to work in the state for five years	59	28	11	2
Pay for all high school juniors to take the ACT or a career-readiness assessment	34	39	25	2
Pay a higher salary to successful teachers who mentor other teachers	52	32	14	2
Implement new educator evaluations that take into account improvements in student achievement	50	33	14	3
Expand online education opportunities	40	42	16	2

The new federal health care law allows states to expand their Medicaid programs, which in Iowa would provide health care coverage to tens of thousands more poor adults. Governor Branstad wants to opt out of this program, saying even though the federal government will pay at least 90% of the new cost, it is still expensive for the federal government and ultimately for Iowans. Do you agree with Governor Branstad's position or do you think Iowa should opt in to the expanded Medicaid program?

- 46 Agree with Governor Branstad
- 47 Iowa should opt in to the expanded Medicaid program
- 7 Not sure

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators and President Barack Obama have proposed a comprehensive plan to reform immigration. They would allow a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants if they pass a background check and pay a fine and back taxes. The senators would create the path to citizenship only after there is agreement the borders have been successfully controlled. President Obama wants to open the path to citizenship from the outset, without tying it to border control measures. Which statement reflects the step you would favor: **(Read list.)**

- 58 Create a path to citizenship, but ensure the borders are controlled first
- 19 Create a path to citizenship without tying it to border control measures
- 21 Do not create a path to citizenship
- 2 Not sure

Getting toward the end of our interview now, I'm going to mention some retailers that currently have no store in Iowa. For each, please tell me if you would be thrilled to have a store in Iowa, mildly happy, or don't really care one way or the other.

	Thrilled	Mildly Happy	Don't Really Care	Not Sure
Nordstrom	12	23	60	5
Macy's	19	25	54	2
Ikea	25	21	49	5
Cabela's	29	26	42	3
Restoration Hardware	9	21	63	7
H&M	9	12	62	17

About the poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted Feb. 3-6 for The Des Moines Register by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on interviews with 802 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers. Responses were adjusted by age and sex to reflect the general population based on recent Census data.

Questions based on the sample of 802 Iowa adults have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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